

(8)
A Letter of Dr. Bernards to a Friend
of his at COURT.

SIR,

Dr. Bernards Vindication.

Having heard by some of my Friends, that there is a misapprehension of me at Court by such as know me not, because of my acquaintance with Oliver Cromwel, I have (by their advice) thought it expedient for my own vindication to declare both my Sufferings by him for his Majesties cause in Ireland, and the continuance of them in England, and that the fruits of my frequent visiting him, was reaped by others, and not by my self, in being an Instrument of Preterving the Lives and Estates, and Releiving the Distresses of such as had suffered for his Majesty, which was my continued agency, even for strangers, as those that had been known to me, of each of which some are here mentioned. Whereunto (with the like advice) I have added a brief relation of my Sufferings, (being so variously reported) in the Storme of Drogheda and after it, an. 1649. with a satisfaction in some particulars misunderstood, as to the Office of Almoner, which herewith I have sent unto you, and do commit it to your prudence, as there shall be occasion. I omit my Sufferings in the Seige of Drogheda, an. 1641. by the Irish Reberls 4 months, the whole narration of which, was by special order published, wherein their scandal in relation to his Majesties Royal Father of blessed memory, was sufficiently vindicated for which (being an. 1647. taken by a party of th^m) I hardly escaped death,

A.

A Briefe

A Brief Relation of Dr. Bernards Sufferings for his Majesty, and of his preserving the Lives and Estates, and Relieving the necessities of many of his fellow Sufferers, both in England and Ireland.

I. His Sufferings in Ireland.

WHen Drogheda was taken by the Army, under the Command of the Lord Marquess of Ormond, The Doctor was Instrumental with the Mayor of the Town, to the Proclaiming his Majesty, and attended the Lord of Enchiquin at that Solemnity, and immediately went to the Church, and observed the publique Prayers for his Majesty, and shortly after preached a *Thanksgiving Sermon* for it.

After that he waited upon the Lord Leintenant at his Camp before Dublin, who afterwards coming to Drogheda was a further witness of the Doctors constancy to his Majesty, and when his Lordship was called away, upon Oliver Cromwells landing, the Doctor being the Minister of the place, and having his family there, could not desert them, but was left there behind, though by his friends (especially Sir Robert Byron, apprehending his danger) he was advised to be gone.

When that Town was Stormed and all that bare Armes in it put to the sword, the Doctor could gain no Protection (though many others had) but was left to the mercy of the Souldiers, so as all he had was taken from him, and himself designed to Death, by many that had vowed it, though by Gods special mercy he was preserved, too large to be inserted here.

After this he was turned out of his Benefice at Drogheda, and sent for up to Dublin as a Delinquent; and there committed by Cromwel himself in the open streets, in the midst of his officers, with menaces of Death for his promoting of the Kings service as before said, and was close prisoner 17 dayes, and upon security was confined within the City of Dublin for 6 months after.

One special charge against him then, was his continuance of the use of the *Book of Common Prayer*, in his Church to the last, notwithstanding the *Inhibition* sent to him by Colonel *Michael Jones*, who thereupon stopped all the payments which had been allowed him.

His *Concio ad Clerum*, when he took his degree of Doctor at *Dublyn*, 1642. was then remembred against him, wherein he had at larg declared, that the taking up of *Armes* then against his *Majesties Royal Father of blessed memory*, was unlawful, according to the *Text*, (*Rom. 13. 2.*) whereupon a reliefe intended him out of *England*, was stopped by the Commissioners of *Parliament* then in *Dublyn*.

I I. *His Sufferings in England.*

THOUGH he were permitted by *Cromwel* to preach at *Greys-Inne*, yet he was rendred incapable of any other Benefice, when by the joynt desire of the Parishoners of *St. Martins* in the Fields, he was invited thither, and had several other offers.

And when the Earle of *Bridgewater* had bestowed upon him a living worth 400 pound a year, and he was legally inducted to it, yet upon *Cromwells* testimony of his proclaiming his Majesty, as aforesaid, he could not be permitted to enjoy it.

III. *His endeavours to preserve many of the Lives and Estates, of such as have suffered for his Majesty.*

SIR *Maurice Eustace*, and about five or six others, who were eminent in the Kings service, being committed together prisoners at *Chester*, their release both as to *England* and *Ireland*, were obtained by him, their acknowledgment of which he hath under all their hands in one paper.

He obtained a pardon for Sir *Robert Byron*, when he was condemned to dye by *Hewson* at *Dublin*.

He procured the like for the Lord *Grandison*. He obtained an order for Major *Perkins*, to be restored to his Estate in *Ireland*.

And for his service to the Lady *Marchionesse of Ormond* at her comming out of *France*, when She was remanded back again

gain, he humbly submits to her *Ladyships* own testimony.

He procured about 300 l. for Sir Henry Tuckborn, after he had with his *Lady* & family attended long in vain, & was in despair of any; & obtained for him several orders, touching his estate in *Ireland*, & the like for Sir Francis Willowby with many others.

When a *barbarous* and *cruell* order was made against the *E. piscopall* Clergy to their utter undoing; he did boldly deliver his sense of it, and prevailed with the late *Primate* of *Ireland* to come to Town of purpose, in hope that his *Authority* might have prevailed with *Cromwell*, and others to revoke it: and for three weeks together, attended upon his *Graces* endeavours therein though it proved ineffectuall; and when there was an offer for a *contribution* for them throughout *England* (so as they might have *Cromwells* licence for it;) the *Dr.* improved his utmost interest to obtaine it, and petitioned for them in his own name, and put his hand to it, he delivered their remonstrance or petition: and what else was penned by others for that end (which hath been since published) was delivered to *Oliver Cromwell* by his hand.

He obtained severall letters of recommendation, for persons in *Ireland* (as the now *Bishop* of *Kilmore* and others) and orders for keeping in and restoring Ministers (as Mr. *Hunt* of *Chester* and others) to their *Penesices* and *Estates* in *England* and was a constant Agent for them: and though his *endeavours* were not alwayes answered with a desired effect, yet his trouble was the same; and the charge in *letters*, and returns in those solicitations was not small. Some being cast into prison (as Sir *Thomas Armstrong* who was a long time in the Gate-house) he solicited their businesse to his utmost endeavour for their release: others condemned to dye, he did the like for their pardon or reprivall.

I V. *His Relief of those who suffered in their Estates and Liberty, for his Majesty, which was the cause of his acceptance of the Almoners place, that he might be serviceable to that end. He disbursed*

TO Dr. Bromrigg the late *Bishop* of *Exeter* (the receipts of which are ready to be produced) ——— 150 l.

To

To the late Lord *Primate* of *Ireland* (who is ready to be produced) ——— 250 l.
 To a Lord of *Ireland*, ——— 10 l.
 To a Bishop of *Ireland* (for a debt compounded for) — 15 l.
 To the same Bishop in his extream poverty at several times, ——— 20 l.
 To a Dean of *Ireland* ——— 8 l.
 To Mr. *Durant* a Sequestered Minister (who had 10 children) ——— 6 l.
 To a Captain, who was at *Drogheda* when it was stormed, and now in *Virginia* ——— 20 l.
 To *Dennis Sheriden* (who coming from *Brussels*, was conceived to have been employed into *Ireland* upon his Majesties service) ——— 8 l.
 To a Captain who had been faithful to the Lord *Leivetenant* in *Ireland*, being poor, at several times ——— 30 l.
 To many other distressed Persons, Ministers, Widdowes, and others of quality relating unto *Ireland*, who are unwilling to have their names mentioned, ——— 50 l.
 To diverse Sequestered Ministers, and others of quality, as meaner persons, in their several distresses in *England* — 40 l.
 To *John Allen*, the Lord *Primates* old servant, ——— 8 l.
 To a person of some Eminency, upon the complaining of his poverty, the Doctor (having then no mony) gave him a Deputation for receiving the *Almoners* dues, in 2 or 3 Counties, without accompt.

He had once prepared 60 l. for his Majesties Servants, but *Cromwel* at that instant time sent for him, and commanded him to give so much to the Jews, and accordingly 40 l. was paid to *Manasses Ben-Israel* whose receipt he hath, and *Cromwel* took the other 20 l. from him, pretending to pay it himself.

Besides what he gave to some Germans, and other Outlandish persons, commended unto him, as to a Turk, baptised by Mr. *Gunning*, for clothes 8 l.

About a year before *Oliver Cromweles* death, he was complained of, for giving what he had received as *Almoner* to distressed persons, and thereupon was called to an accompt: which he (knowing the danger of) deferring, he had been

cur-

longer.

In a word, he layed up nothing for himselfe (out of it) as he might have done, being without account, but by the *loses* he hath suffered, and the many *suites* wherein he hath been engaged, *while* he had the *office*, and *since* it was taken from him, he is the worse by 300 *l*.

V. In Relation to the Lord Primate of Ireland, he hath been further serviceable as followeth.

The transcribing of a great *Manuscript* which had been his 50 years' study, (worthy of Dedication to his *Majesty*) which was so interlin'd that it could not else be Printed, Laid out, and ingaged for it ————— 40 *l*.

He was at great labour and expence in the constant *solicitation* and receipt of his *Pension*; which for one *quarter* onely was paid at the rate of 400 *p*. and after at 160 *p*. a year, as also for what was promised after his death to *his*, which through the *iniquity* of the times was not performed, who used this fraud, in calling that a graunt, which was onely *signed*, but not suffered to be *sealed*.

The Dr. preached his *Funerall Sermon*, buried him according to the book of *Common Prayer*, and obtained 200 *l*. to defray the charges of the *Funerall*.

VI. In further Manifestation of his Integrity.

As he ever used freedom of speech to *Cromwell* in defence of *Episcopacy*, and the sequestred *Clergy* both in publique and private, so he never altered his *habit*, though it caused him many affronts from the *Phanatick* party: and being once prevailed with to preach at the *Cock-pit*, where were diverse of his *Councill* and other grand *Enemies* to his *Majesty*, he took his *Text* out of the 1. *Tim. 3. In the last dayes, &c. men shall be traytors, &c. Having a form of godlinesse, but denying the power thereof.*

A *Bishop* had once consecrated a *Chappell*, according to the usuall form: the *Ministers* in the *Diocesse* combined in a *Petition* against him, the Dr. interceded, and so ordered the business, that he was dismissed and heard no more of it.

He

He omits the *gratuities*, he gave to such as did assist him in the obtaining of diverse suites for those that were distressed, and even to the *meaner* servants, for some seasonable admittance for those ends; and the *long* attendance till 11 a clock at night, taking a lodging frequently thereabouts, upon such occasions, often to the hazard of his *health* and *life*, in cold and unseasonable weather, all which he would have given over long before, being every way displeasing to him, by the hatred of the Army, and the Ministers there attending, but that it was the request of diverse distressed persons to continue it.

When the Army and City of London were at difference, (under the Committee of Safety) before Generall Monck appeared, he had prevailed with a *principall* person for the *uniting* of both, and *Proclaiming* of his Majesty in London, upon his undertaking to have procured their pardon, and it was once so far proceeded in, that he was preparing to go *beyond Seas* for that end.

His often free and faithfull discourse with the L. Generall Monck himselfe, in relation to his Majesty, when his actions were *variously* interpreted, he submits to his Testimony.

For *these nine years* past at *Graves-Inne* he hath according to the *Book of Common Prayer* celebrated the *Communion*, and did the like elsewhere. In Baptisme, Mariages, Burialls, &c. never using any other.

And the employing his endeavours in some tracts published for an accommodation betwixt the *Episcopall* and *Presbyterian* parties, hath been in order to his Majesties service, and the Church, wherein he is still ready to spend himself.

The Rectifying of some misapprehensions of him, concerning the Office of Almoner.

THE Dr. was not *absolutely* made *Almoner* by Oliver Cromwell, but *onely* joyned in the Patent with Dr. French his Brother in Law (by which what little interest was intended for him, doth easily appear) and he *dying* a quarter of a year after, it fell to the Dr. as survivor; which was taken notice of then as a *Providence* of being by it put in a capacity of doing good to those as had suffered in the like cause with himselfe, and
was

was desired by such to accept of it for that end, and now there was so little *trust* put in him, that when any thing of *value* fell, *Cromwell* took it to himselfe.

I. In special the estate of *William Tombs* found a *Fellon* of himself (which was the greatest that fell in his time) the whole was by a special order from *Cromwell* taken from him, and put into the hands of *Major Worsley*, who took it up accordingly, and what little of it came to his hands, an account of it was made to him;

He is the worse by a 100 p. by the losses and charges he hath been at, about that one businesse, which are not yet satisfied; and is now disturbed upon that surmise of receiving it, in severall suites to his great molestation.

II. There hath been a businesse which hath occasioned much discourse to his great injury concerning one *Mr. Barkley* who was found a *Felon* of himself, and so clearly by severall depositions, that the like can scarce be paralel'd: yet an other inquisition was ordered without any insufficiency found in the first, and in that manner which hath no president that his Councell knows of.

The whole narration of the proceedings in it, are too long to be here inserted, the Dr. hath, and doth still suffer much injury by the adverse parties free discourse of him in it, some of whom he very much honours which encreaseth his griefe, onely this will be his justification with those that are strangers to him and the Case: that he hath & doth offer it to any just, prudent, uninterested persons whatsoever, and will bind himself to stand to his or their Arbitrement: the deniall of which argues some diffidence they have of theirs, and he is assured by his Councel, the first inquisition stands yet firm in Law, and so his Majesties Title to the estate: which he onely defends, and layes it down at his Majesties feet.

A Brief

*A brief Relation of that Bloody Storm at Drogheda,
in Ireland, and the Doctors Sufferings by Oliver
Cromwel in it, and after it, with his Preservation.*

THe 3d of September 1649, was the first day Oliver Cromwell came before it, in making any attempt to that end; he had a 11 thousand Horse and Foot, compleatly provided, the Town had 3500. two dayes he battered, upon the second day about five of the clock in the afternoon, he assaulted it, but received a *repulse*; yet returning again took it: the word was given throughout his Army, *no quarter*; the *Mill mount* where the Governour Sir *Arthur Aton* was with about 300 men, was yielded upon promise of quarter, but as soon as it was possessed by them, all were put to the Sword: when the Town was fully taken, the *Doctors House* was one of the first the Soldiers fell upon, but by the strength of it could not enter; The Mayor of the Town, and diverse other of the *Principall* men that were *Protestants* to the number of about 30 came into it for refuge.

There came 5 or 6 who were sent from a *principall Officer*, (the Doctors former acquaintance) under a pretence of a guard for his house, but had a Command from him, as soon as they were entred to kill him, (which an *earwitnesse* hath since assured him of;) the Dr. denying to open the door to them, one of them discharged a *Musket Bullet* at him: it passed through the door, and onely fired the skin of one of his fingers leaving a spot upon it, which burned 4 or 5 dayes after, and did him no more hurt.

Then a *Cornet* of a Troop of horse, came to his releife, and pretending he had order from the *Generall* to take care of that house, the Souldiers withdrew, and so at a *Back-door* he brought in his *Quarter-Master*, whom he left to secure him. About a quarter of an hour after, another Troop of Horse came to the window & demanded the opening of the door. The *Quarter-Master* and himsef with an old servant left with him, (for he had sent his Wife and Children out of Town) stood close together, and told them it was the Ministers

House, and *all therein were Protestants*, as soon as they heard the *D. named*, and his voice, one of them discharged his *Pistoll* at him, wherein being a *brace of Bullets* with the one the *Quarter-Master* was shot quite through the Body, and dyed in the place, and the other shot his servant through the throat, but recovered; the *Dr. was onely untouched*. After this he made a stand at another place, and seeing the *Souldiers*, breaking in at a low window, he went up to his *Study*, where his said friends were making great *Lamentation*, expecting *present death*, they all kneeled down, and commended their soules to God. No sooner had the *Dr. begun*, but in comes the *Souldiers*, and interrupts them, threatening them with *Bullets*, but it pleased God they were so mollified that they onely took all they had about them, and fell upon the spoyle of the house. In the midst of these confusions comes one *Colonel Exres* (whom the *Dr.* had not seen in 16 years before, and knew not of his being there) and took up his house for his quarters, turned the *Souldiers* out, and made the doores fast for himself.

Not long after came *Colonel Hewson*, and told the *Dr.* he had orders to blow up the *Steeple* (which stood between the quier and the Body of the Church) where about *threescore men* were run up for refuge, but the three *Barrells* of Powder which he caused to be put under it for that end, blew up onely the *body of the Church*, and the next night *Hewson* caused the *seates* of the Church to be broken up, and made a great pile of them under the *Steeple*, which firing, it took the *lofts* wherein five great *Bells* hung, and from thence it flamed up to the top, and so at once *Men, and Bells, and Roof* came all down together, the most hideous sight and terrible cry, that ever he was witness of at once.

The next day the *Colonel* that had saved the *Drs.* life comes to him, and tells him he was very *sharply checked* for it, by the *Generall* and many of the *Officers*, and that he must yet expect to dye, that no *Protection* could be had for him; which was confirmed unto him by others also, whereupon divers that came to see him took their leaves as *never to see him again*, and the number of the *dead bodies* (with which the *Church-yard* and *Streets* were filled already) daily encreasing, even in coole blood to the number of 3500 gave him little hope of the contrary

trary: that which at present *repreived* him, was *Col. Ewres* sending two of his Officers which were wounded to lie there.

Then was the Proclaiming of his *Majesty*, inciting and encouraging of the Army, and what else might favour ill with the Souldiers, mustered up against him.

The next day *Oliver Cromwel*, with many of his Officers, came to the Doctors house, began with asperting his *Ordination* as *Popish*, then the late *Arch Bishop of Armagh*, from whom he had received it, then his *Majesties Title*, and the Doctors *Praying* for him came into discourse: the disputes of which with divers other Subjects, which lasted about three quarters of an hower, would be impertinent to be related here, but when he found the *Dr.* to be of that judgement he had heard, he left him without any assurance of life, onely gave order to the *Governour* to have him sent up to *Dublyn* as a *Prisoner*. When he came there, it so fell out, that he met *Cromwel* himself, with his officers in the streets, where, after great *Menaces* that he would make him an *Example*, and expressly threatening him with pronouncing the sentence of death upon him, committed him to prison: as he was carried away, beside the votes of all the officers against him, *Hugh Peeters* fell most upon him, who (as was affirmed then) had blamed *Cromwel* for saving of his life so long.

Seaventeen dayes he was close prisoner, and afterwards upon Bonds confined six months within the City, and after that sent for up to the Army at *Clonmel*, permitted to come then with *Cromwel* into *England*, where to himself he never varied in any discourse in the said Subjects, from what he had said to him at the first sight of him.

Thus far his sufferings in that storm, and his Deliverance.

Some Articles Objected against the Doctor, while he was a Prisoner in Dublin.

I **T**hat he had refused to obey Col. Michael Jones his order, for the forbearing the use of *Common Prayer*, in his Church at *Drogheda*.

I I. That he had Preached a *Thanksgiving Sermon*, for the taking of the Town of *Drogheda*, by the Lord of *Inchiquin*, under the Command of the Lord Marquesse of *Ormond*.

I I I. That he saluted one Col. *Trenchard*, with great joy the Town was taken, accordingly for the King.

I V. That he moved the Mayor of the Town to come in his *Scarlet* to the proclaiming of the King, and that he attended at it himself, and went immediately to the Church, and observed the *Book of Common Prayer*, & in special those prayers for him.

V. His Praying for the Lord Marquesse of *Ormond*, as Lord *Leutenant* of *Ireland*, then besieging of *Dublin*.

V I. His praying for a Confusion upon *Oliver Cromwells* Army while he was besieging *Drogheda*.

V I I. His withdrawing of some Commanders and Soldiers, from the service of the Parliament, and in special the speeches of one of their Captains upon his death bed produced, in complaining of the Doctor to that purpose.

V I I I. That he was with the Lord Marquesse of *Ormond* at his Camp before *Dublin*.

I X. That he refused to goe with the Parliament Army, out of the Town of *Drogheda*, but staid with the Lord of *Inchiquin* and his party in it, attended the Lord Marquesse of *Ormond*, when he came back to it, the keeping of a *Fat*, and Preaching before him, and praying accordingly for a good successe upon his designs.

X. That he had employed his parts, (to use the very words as it was written to him) against the *Saints*, and that Interest which the Lord *Jesus* is now bringing forth into the world.

And thus he hath been compelled against his own disposition to reckon up those things which else he had not so much as mentioned, he having in all this done and suffered but that which was his duty to do.

F I N I S.

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